

WHY 7 MEMBERS?

A further issue of authority and ease of decisionmaking is raised by the seven-member composition of the proposed Medicare Board. The current trend is to establish boards of three to five members, because larger boards often experience great difficulty in reaching a decision. Most recently, the former Interstate Commerce Commission, which initially consisted of 11 members, and was later reduced to five members, was abolished and many of its functions were transferred to a three-member Surface Transportation Board.

WHAT PRESIDENT?

The amount of independence granted the Medicare Board from the President and from congressional oversight is highly unusual and serves to limit the accountability of the board members . . .

Presidential authority over one of the largest government programs would . . . be severely limited, because the Chief Executive would have virtually no authority over board activities . . . Congressional influence and direction would also be limited because the board, able to raise its own operating funds, would not be subject to the yearly appropriations process.

TALK ABOUT MAKING HCFA MORE UNRESPONSIVE!

It is rare for such agencies to be authorized to generate their operating funds. Only a handful of such agencies, nearly all involved with banking and financial matters, have such authority.

IN CONCLUSION, LET'S BE ANTI-DEMOCRACY

Congress Sometimes departs from traditional guidelines regarding what is considered the type of organizational and administrative structure most likely to result in the effective delivery of government programs. The proposed bill restructuring the Medicare program, departing as it does from those guidelines, raises questions because it would divide program responsibility and authority between two government entities, an independent Medicare Board and the Division of HCFA-Sponsored Plans. Difficulties in administering the program are more likely to arise and produce conflicts more difficult to resolve when a program is divided between two distinct federal entities than when located within one entity. Additionally, there may be a problem when one of the entities is located within a department and the head of the department has little if any supervisory authority over that entity. That situation may serve to separate the department head from any problems that the entity may be experiencing and make it less likely that he or she would be willing or able to help resolve those problems. Finally, the amount of independence proposed for the Medicare Board would make it more difficult for the President to exercise guidance and direction over the Medicare program, and for Congress to provide guidance and direction to the board through its use of the appropriations process.

TRIBUTE TO DENMARK'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES,
K. ERIK TYGESEN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in bidding farewell to Am-

bassador K. Erik Tygesen, who has served as Denmark's extraordinary envoy to the United States for the past five years. Ambassador Tygesen's outstanding efforts to promote the diplomatic relations between the United States and Denmark are a reflection of his exemplary devotion to democratic ideals, and we are immensely grateful for his commitment and integrity. He will be missed here in Washington.

In July 1997 President Clinton traveled to Denmark, the first-ever visit of a United States President in office. The trip was an overwhelming success, due in large part to the preparations and planning of Ambassador Tygesen. This visit further strengthened the long and strong lasting ties between our two countries. In his speech to Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark, President Clinton said, "The United States has had relations with Denmark longer than with any other country, and our nations have never been closer than today. On almost every issue we stand together, and on some of the most important issues we stand together almost alone. But America always knows it is in the right if Denmark is by our side."

Ambassador Tygesen embodies these sentiments that President Clinton voiced. Consistent with a long Danish tradition of championing peace, Ambassador Tygesen was a platoon leader in the first United Nations peacekeeping force, UNEF, in Gaza from 1956 to 1957. He subsequently devoted his life to the diplomatic service. After holding numerous high-level positions in the Danish cabinet, Ambassador Tygesen was appointed Deputy Head of the Danish delegation to the United Nations' 11th Special Assembly on Economic Affairs in 1980, where his performance was so commendable that he shortly thereafter was appointed Ambassador to Brazil and then to Germany. In 1995 he was made Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the United States of America.

In this last post, Ambassador Tygesen encouraged Denmark to join the United States as an active part of the international effort to counter the destabilizing effects of President Milosevic's ethnic cleansing agenda in the former Yugoslavia. Consequently, Denmark was the one of the largest per capita contributors to peacekeeping missions in Kosova, participating in the air campaign and providing troops and police as well as humanitarian aid and reconstruction assistance.

Ambassador Tygesen also promoted Danish support of NATO expansion. At the Washington Summit in April 1999, Denmark welcomed Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to NATO. This generosity of spirit and global awareness were also evident as Ambassador Tygesen sought, both in Washington and in Copenhagen, to support further liberalization of transatlantic trade in the interest of both our countries. His efforts to contain and eliminate trade frictions and to devise an early-warning system so that both sides of the Atlantic might avoid such trade disputes in the future have strengthened cooperation between the United States and the European Union.

Last year the Ambassador also secured Danish funds which made it possible to sign an agreement between the Danish Ministry of Culture and the government of the United States Virgin Islands (the former Danish West Indies). Denmark shares a rich common heritage with these islands, and through this agreement will transfer original archival mate-

rial on the history of the Danish West Indies from the Danish National Archives in Copenhagen to the United States Virgin Islands.

Ambassador Tygesen has been integral to promoting the continued good relations between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Denmark. He displays all the noble qualities of compassion, reasonableness and foresight which characterize his countrymen, and we in Washington shall miss him greatly.

HONORING CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY'S MEN'S
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congressman SAM GEJDENSON (CT-02) and myself, today I honor a special group of college athletes who have captured the hearts and minds of people across the State. On March 16, the Central Connecticut State University Men's Basketball team played in the NCAA Division I tournament for the first time since joining the division in 1986.

When the Blue Devils traveled to the Minneapolis Metrodome for their big game, they brought with them the accomplishment of a 25 and 5 overall record during the 1999-2000 season, including a 15-game winning streak, and the title of Northeast Conference Champions. They had set their sights on a win in the first round of action, but they were already winners in the hearts of many across the Nation.

Central waited many years, but it was finally their turn at the "big dance." As an alumnus of the University, I could not be happier for the team.

There is nothing better than school pride. The approximately 12,000 students who attend the University, which is located on a campus that encompasses both Newington and New Britain Connecticut, were given two more reasons to feel this pride with the team's win at the Northeast Conference on March 6, and with the announcement on Sunday, March 12 that they were headed to the NCAA Division I Championship playoffs.

The great, former Central coach Bill Detrick summed up the passion and pride that alumnus, students and friends of the University felt when the team won the Northeast Conference Championship, "When those nets were cut down, oh boy, all the players, coaches and fans ever at Central were up on that ladder, too."

Yes, in a manner of speaking, we were on that ladder. And the person who helped us experience that amazing moment was the Blue Devil's coach and fellow University alumnus, Howie Dickenman. Under his leadership the team won the Northeast Conference Championship just two years after joining the conference. In just his fourth year as head coach, Dickenman has transformed the Blue Devils from a 4 and 22 team into champions. No one is more deserving of the Northeast Conference Coach of the Year recognition than Howie Dickenman.

Here is a man who just earned a remarkable professional achievement, but who gave

the glory of the moment to the memory of his best friend from college and former coaching staff colleague, Dave Rybczyk. Dave past away in September 1999, but he spent 11 years working as assistant coach along side his dear friend Howie. What a moving moment when Howie let Dave's son and former Blue Devil's player, Mark, cut the final strands of the net after the Northeast Conference Championship game in honor of his father.

I had the pleasure of going to college with How Dickenman so I know first hand what a caring individual he is, and how passionate he is about coaching. He takes the legacy passed down to him by his father, a former basketball coach at Norwich Free Academy in Norwich, CT, very seriously. So much so, that he carried one of the bowties that his father used to wear as a coach in his pocket during Central's championship game.

Words of gratitude for this "dream season" must also be expressed to the team's assistant coaches Steve Pikiell, Patrick Sellers, and Anthony Latina. Central's men's basketball program truly encompasses the meaning of the word "team." The dedication and support of Steve, Patrick, and Anthony played a key role in helping these amazing players be their best.

And finally, the amazing players. Each one has helped make this very special moment happen for the school and they should be extremely proud of their accomplishment. Wherever life may take them upon graduation from Central Connecticut State University, the memories of this remarkable season will remain with them forever.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the most selfless act of one player in particular, Victor Payne, which was observed by University President Richard Judd.

A dedicated fan, who is a wheelchair-bound Central student, has attended every one of the team's games. And the team's Northeast Conference championship game in Trenton, NJ, was no exception. After the net was lowered, Victor Payne cut off a string and quietly, without fanfare walked over to this student and handed it to him. What a heart-rendering act of team spirit that embodies what the athletic program at Central Connecticut State University is all about. Victor Payne wasn't told to do that, he just knew in his heart it was the right thing to do.

We offer out most sincere congratulations to the Central Connecticut State University Men's Basketball team on their many successes this season. Thank you for the wonderful memories you have provided.

We wish the Blue Devils many years of continued success. Thanks for making two of your biggest fans very proud.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD HEALEY

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman from southern Florida who devoted his life to public service. State Representative Edward Healey, a former opponent and a valued colleague passed away last Wednesday.

Ed dedicated his professional and personal life to the people of Florida and as a state leg-

islator he served as one of the most senior members in the history of the Florida House. His contributions to the lives of all Floridians will continue to pay dividends for generations to come. As he was fond of saying, "A life of service is the only life worth living."

Originally from New York, Ed was awarded the Purple Heart for his actions in northern France during the invasion of Normandy. He moved to Florida in 1957 and quickly became involved in public service. Never one to grandstand, Mr. Healey was a true statesman, following his convictions and transcending political wrangling.

Long before ethics and campaign finance reform became buzz words in elections, Ed Healey was an advocate of good government. He worked to build the infrastructure of Florida through a solid knowledge of transportation issues and his work on the Joint Management Committee. He was known as one of the hardest working members in Tallahassee.

He is the epitome of a gentleman. As a former opponent in state politics, I can say he was always a true gentleman and a fair competitor. Ed was a person that would reach out to people whether you agreed with his views or not and was as comfortable meeting with people in Dunkin Donuts as he was at the Breakers. He will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Florida, I would like to say thank you to Mr. Healey.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000 which will set us on the course of reaching the commitment the U.S. Congress made 24 years ago to children and families with special education needs. That commitment was to provide children with disabilities access to a quality public education and contribute 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure to assist States and local school districts with the excess costs of educating such children.

Unfortunately, we have failed to fully meet this commitment. Nevertheless, over the past four fiscal years (fiscal year 1997, fiscal year 1998, fiscal year 1999, and fiscal year 2000), we have fought for and achieved a dramatic \$2.6 billion funding increase for IDEA. This is a 115 percent increase in the Federal share for Part B of IDEA. However, this amounts to only 12.6 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure to assist with the excess expenses of educating children with disabilities.

Failing to meet our full commitment contradicts the goal of ensuring that children with disabilities receive a quality education.

The Congressional Research Service estimates that over \$15 billion would be needed to fully fund Part B of IDEA. The fiscal year 2000 appropriation for Part B was \$4.9 billion, leaving States and local school districts with an unfunded mandate of more than \$10 billion.

The bill I am introducing today sets a schedule to meet the 40 percent commitment by the year 2010. While many of us believe we

should already be paying our fair share, this bill will authorize increases of \$2 billion each year to ensure that our commitment becomes a reality in 10 years.

This Congress overwhelmingly passed a resolution stating that our highest education funding priority should be fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I think that before we create new programs out of Washington, the Congress needs to ensure that the Federal Government lives up to the promises it made to the students, parents, and schools over two decades ago. If we had followed that commitment, local school districts would have the funds necessary to build new schools, hire new teachers, reduce class size and buy more computers. All new programs that the Administration has promoted over the last several years without funding the promise we made in 1975.

In my district, the York City School District receives \$363,557. If IDEA were fully funded, this school district would receive \$1,440,000, an increase of \$1,080,000. The York City School District currently spends \$6.4 million each year on special education services, which represents about 16 percent of its total budget. The Federal contribution is currently only 5.7 percent of this.

If the Federal Government paid the promised 40 percent for special education, York City would have approximately \$1.1 million in additional funds to spend on other pressing educational needs. While \$1.1 million may not sound like a lot of money, I can assure you that in a school district like York City, this represents a significant source of funds.

Just 3 years ago, Congress and the administration worked together in a true bipartisan fashion to reauthorize IDEA so those children with special needs can have more options and services. It is my hope that we can continue that bipartisan work to fully fund the IDEA and finally make good on our commitment.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLE-SCOTT COMMITTEE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Belle-Scott Committee of Belleville and Scott Air Force Base, IL.

The Belle-Scott Committee evolved from the "Belleville Plan" which was created in 1950 by then Belleville mayor, H.V. Calhoun, Maj. Gen. Robert Harper, commander of the Air Training Command at Scott Air Force Base and Col. George W. Pardy, Scott's commanding officer.

The "Belleville Plan" was announced at the First "G.I. Pal Dinner" which was held on November 29, 1950, at the U.S.O. Canteen in Belleville, IL. This committee, which has been in continuous existence since that time, offers a direct means by which the two communities, military and civilian, work together to promote matters of mutual interest.

Military and civilian representatives meet on a monthly basis to discuss cooperative social, recreational and cultural efforts between Scott Air Force Base and the city of Belleville, IL.